

Memorials Dec 26 – Jan 1, 2017

Tabernacle Lamp, Altar Candles, and Bread & Wine

In Memory of George & Dolly Safko by son

Mass Intentions Dec 26 – Jan 1, 2017

Monday, Dec 26th

6:50 am Anthony Rescigno by Cara & Mark Hanes

Tuesday, Dec 27th

6:50 am Tom Barkofsky by family

Wednesday, Dec 28th

6:50 am Elmer Vanderberg by son Robert Vanderberg

2:30 pm Lacka Rehab - Mass for the People

Thursday, Dec 29th

6:50 am Helen Cordelli by Jack & Roseann Henzes

Friday, Dec 30th ~ Feast of the Holy Family

6:50 am Frank Borgna Sr by Ann Alco

Saturday, Dec 31st

4:00 pm Mass for the People

Sunday, Jan 1st ~ Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

8:00 am Mass for the People

10:00 am Mass for the People

Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for all the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and the recently deceased.



that of other days of celebration. Christmas is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a most holy day. As Christians it is our day in a most sacred and definite way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of the blessings that lie ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the promised gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

CHRISTMAS

BLESSINGS

Message from the Pastor 2016

As your pastor here at Sacred Heart, I offer my sincerest gratitude to all of you for so many thoughtful greetings, gifts and prayerful remembrances during this beautiful season commemorating Christ's birth in Bethlehem some 20 centuries ago.

Thank you also to our many volunteers who help in our parish throughout the year, including those who helped prepare our parish for the celebration of Christmas. Especially I thank our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, servers, musicians and choir members, decorators, teachers and staff members. Please accept my prayerful best wishes for a wonderful and joyous Twelve Days of Christmas filled with abundant blessings of God!

Filled once again with the joy of the Christmas mystery, may we all take on more of the likeness of Christ as the days of Christmas and New Year unfold. Let us assist one another to strive anew in our efforts at re-connecting and re-affiliating all we meet with the God of our salvation as Jesus came to exemplify and model. Sincerely yours,

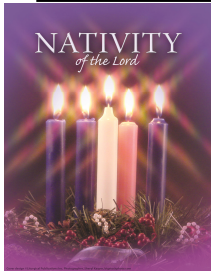
Monsignor Madus

Collection for last Weekend: December 18, 2016

328 Sunday Offertory Envelopes \$5,840.00

We sincerely thank all who are consistently using their regular offertory envelopes or prearranged bank checks to support the work and mission of Sacred Heart Parish. We also commend those who are being conscientious to their commitments through our ongoing Parish Care Campaign.

DECEMBER 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us. He shall be called Emmanuel, a name that means "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of

fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the blind misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day. We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves, but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense in showing our joy and gratitude to God. Let us be careful not to reduce our Christmas celebration to something less glorious, something less meaningful or less profound than

Octave of Christmas



Celebrating the Octave of Christmas

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 9th. The Octave of Christmas is celebrated from Christmas day to January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The liturgies after Christmas give clues that every day within the octave is treated the same as the original solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. An octave, from a musical point of view means eight notes: do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do. From a Church point of view, it means eight days. Beginning on first day of Christmas day, the Church celebrates the Octave of Christmas eight days later.

Why would we celebrate an octave at Christmas time and why eight days and not seven? In the Old Testament circumcision was a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham

and thus between God and the Jewish people. The oath of this covenant was sealed by the act and sign of circumcision. It was on the eighth day that this important event took place. The three primary octaves of the church year come after Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

The Octave of Christmas propels us forward to a Christological doctrine that affirms Christ's nature and personhood and Mary's role as Mother of God. The octave's primary observation is by celebrating daily Mass in thanksgiving for the gift of Christ, with the gospel readings centered around the incarnation and the early years of Jesus' life. For this reason, we are invited to consider extending Christmas throughout the octave by rejoicing in the Incarnation, the coming of God as man – fully human and fully divine in the divine person of Jesus Christ –and the role of a lowly handmaiden in his eternal plan.

World Day of Peace January 1, 2017



Pope Francis has chosen "*Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace*" as the theme for this year's 50th commemoration of World Day of Peace. In his message, Pope Francis urges families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice nonviolence and work to build a just peace. To read the full document, go to <http://w2.vatican.va/>.

Bereavement Support Group

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4). A Bereavement Ministry at St. Peter's Cathedral Parish offers an important ministry to people in the community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The Support Group is **available to anyone in the community** who feels the need to participate in a Bereavement Program that offers spiritual as well as

emotional support during the weeks, months or years following the death of a close family member or friend. The program will work through a series of topics to help understand the grief process and to find healing. The group will meet weekly for 4 weeks starting on Wednesday, Jan 18 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in Diocesan Pastoral Center, across from the Cathedral. If you would like to attend this group, please contact the Cathedral parish office at 570-344-7231.

Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family ~ Dec 30th



Let us pray: O Mary and Joseph, we thank you for having lived the moments of uncertainty and anguish with purity of heart and with one desire---namely, to be faithful to the Lord. God's astounding plan made you seek new directions. Though frustration was not spared you, your faith was only strengthened. Protect us by your intercession that we may never forget the presence of our Lord who is our joy and our strength.

Mary and Your Everyday Life by Fr Bernard Haring 1978

Holy Baptism



This month we welcome Harper Lee Howey, infant child of Glenn and Samantha (Perini) Howey through the sacrament of holy baptism. May the grace of God be upon this child and her family and help them to grow steadily in the ways of the Lord.

Charismatic Mass and Healing Service

Sunday, Jan. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca. Beginning with recitation of the rosary at 6:30pm, Mass following at 7pm, celebrated by Fr. August Ricciardi. The Healing service will follow with Fr. Ricciardi & leaders from local charismatic prayer groups. Fellowship and light refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

January 2017 Assignments for Lackawanna Health and Rehab Center

Jan 4-- Maria Ceccacci Jan 11-- Silvia Passeri Jan 18-- Ginny Yazinski Jan 25-- Sharon Gallo

January 2017 Liturgical Assignments

(Please arrange your own substitutions when necessary.)



| DATE | TIME | SERVERS & CROSSBEARER | LECTOR | EXTRAORDINARY MIN OF HOLY COM |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Dec 31 | 4:00pm | Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak | Frank Lesnefsky | Donna Fazio, Silvia Celli, Mariclare Berardelli |
| Jan 1 | 8:00am | Caroline Burak, Nina Collarini | Stephen Skierski | Joan Angeli, Helene DeLeo |
| | 10:00am | J & A Koniszewski, P Redman | Frank Lesnefsky | Jean & Tom Conigliaro, Ann Koniszewski |
| Jan 7 | 4:00pm | Andrew, Edward, Matt Gregorowicz | Kim Gregorowicz | Pete Setta, Nadine Greco, Kim Megela |
| Jan 8 | 8:00am | Joseph Krishanda, Giavana Villano | Chet Merli | David & Gail Haas |
| | 10:00am | M Farrell, S Ferraro, J Loomis | Dennis Fanucci | Matthew Horn, Frank Ghilardi, Elissa Pompey |
| Jan 14 | 4:00pm | Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak | Frank Blasi | Silvia Celli, Mariclare Berardelli, JoAnn Berta |
| Jan 15 | 8:00am | Caroline Burak, Nina Collarini | Maria Neri | Mark Horn, Joan Angeli |
| | 10:00am | E Kozlowski, A Alco, P Redman | Lisa Kozlowski | Jean & Tom Conigliaro, Paul Kraycer |
| Jan 21 | 4:00pm | Andrew, Edward, Matt Gregorowicz | Bill Nalevanko | Donna Fazio, Nadine Greco, Lori Kopa |
| Jan 22 | 8:00am | Joseph Krishanda, Giavana Villano | Maggie Lund | David & Gail Haas |
| | 10:00am | B & M Zipay, J Koniszewski | Frank Lesnefsky | Matt Horn, Ann Koniszewski, Elissa Pompey |
| Jan 28 | 4:00pm | Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak | Sal Urso | Donna Fazio, Silvia Celli, JoAnn Berta |
| Jan 29 | 8:00am | Caroline Burak, Nina Collarini | Stephen Skierski | Joan Angeli, Helene DeLeo |
| | 10:00am | M Farrell, S Ferraro, J Loomis | Dennis Fanucci | Frank Ghilardi, Paul Kraycer, Kim Wolfel |